

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 1. (currently amended) A single use disposable hearing device adapted for
2 continuous extended wear entirely within an ear canal, comprising:

3 a core assembly including a lateral section having a microphone and ~~[[a]]~~ an
4 incorporated, non-removable battery assembly, and a receiver section having a receiver; and

5 a sealing retainer concentrically positioned over said receiver section for conforming
6 to the walls substantially at the bony region of the ear canal, for seating the hearing device in
7 the ear canal and for acoustical sealing against feedback within the ear canal;

8 said lateral section being of generally oval cross-sectional perimeter with a long
9 diameter D_L and a short diameter D_S and of generally cylindrical and elongated shape along
10 its longitudinal axis, said lateral section being adapted for at least partial lateral suspension in
11 the ear canal without occlusion thereof when said hearing device is ~~inserted within~~ seated in
12 the ear canal for allowing said hearing device to comfortably fit in the ear canal and operate
13 continuously therein without daily removal, for an extended period of at least one week.

1 2 (canceled)

1 ~~2x~~ (original) The hearing device of claim 1, wherein said lateral section is medially
2 tapered.

1 4 (canceled)

1 ~~3x~~ (original) The hearing device of claim 1, wherein said lateral section further
2 comprises a stabilizer for positioning between the outer surface of said lateral section and the
3 walls of the ear canal to center and stabilize said lateral section within the ear canal when said
4 device is inserted therein.

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1 ~~6.~~ (original) The hearing device of claim 1, wherein said core assembly comprises a
2 thin moisture-proof encapsulation with its outer surface at least partially exposed directly to
3 the environment of the ear canal when said device is inserted therein.

5
1 ~~7.~~ (original) The hearing device of claim 1, wherein said receiver section is flexibly
2 connected to said lateral section to facilitate insertion of said core assembly within the ear
3 canal, and to allow movement of said lateral section in response to canal movements or to
4 accumulation of debris within the ear canal.

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1 ~~8.~~ (original) The hearing device of claim 1, further comprising at least one
2 acoustically-transparent moisture-proof debris guard for protecting a sound port of at least one
3 of said microphone and said receiver.

7
1 ~~9.~~ (original) The hearing device of claim 1, further comprising an air vent for
2 pressure equalization.

8
1 ~~10.~~ (original) The hearing device of claim 1, wherein said microphone includes an
2 amplifier integral therewith for processing acoustic signal.

9
1 ~~11.~~ (original) The hearing device of claim 1, further including programming means
2 for selectively adjusting electroacoustic parameters of said hearing device.

10
1 ~~12.~~ (original) The hearing device of claim 1, further including remote control means
2 for controlling at least one control parameter of said hearing device.

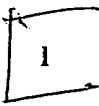
13 (canceled)

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1 ~~14.~~ (original) The hearing device of claim 1, wherein said sealing retainer has an

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2 oval cross-sectional perimeter.

1 ¹²
~~15~~. (original) The hearing device of claim 1, wherein said sealing retainer is
2 composed of compressible material.

1  ~~16~~ (canceled)

1 ¹³
~~17~~. (original) The hearing device of claim 1, wherein said sealing retainer is
2 composed of conforming material.

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~~18~~. (original) The hearing device of claim ~~17~~, wherein said sealing retainer is
2 composed of silicone or polyurethane foam.

1 ¹⁵
~~19~~. (original) The hearing device of claim 1, wherein said sealing retainer is
2 configured to form an air-gap relative to said receiver section when fitted thereon.

1  ~~20~~ (canceled)

1 ¹⁶
~~21~~. (original) The hearing device of claim 1, wherein said sealing retainer further
2 comprises medication material selected from a group including anti-bacterial and anti-
3 microbial agents.

1 ¹⁷
~~22~~. (original) The hearing device of claim 1, including an assortment of different
2 sizes and shapes of said sealing retainer for assembly of a selected sealing retainer of said
3 assortment with said hearing device to optimally accommodate the dimensions of an
4 individual ear canal.

1 ~~23~~ (canceled)

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1 ~~24.~~ (original) The hearing device of claim 1, wherein said oval cross-sectional
2 perimeter of said lateral section has a long diameter D_L to short diameter D_S ratio of
3 approximately 1.4.

1 25-28 (canceled)

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1 19
2 ~~29.~~ (currently amended) A single-use disposable hearing device adapted to be
3 positioned entirely within an ear canal for continuous extended wear therein, comprising:
4 a core assembly including:

5 a lateral section containing a microphone and a battery assembly, said battery
6 assembly being non-removably integrated within said lateral section, said lateral section
7 having a generally oval cross-sectional perimeter with long and short diameters and ~~a~~
8 ~~generally cylindrical and elongated shape along the longitudinal axis of said lateral section~~
9 ~~corresponding to the longitudinal axis of the ear canal within which said hearing device is to~~
10 ~~be inserted, and~~

11 a receiver section containing a receiver, said receiver section coupled to said
12 lateral section and adapted to be medially positioned in the bony region of the ear canal when
13 said hearing device is inserted within the ear canal; and

14 a sealing retainer concentrically positioned over said receiver section and conforming
15 to the walls of the ear canal at the bony region thereof, for seating said hearing device in the
16 ear canal and providing an acoustic seal to inhibit feedback therein, and for at least partially
17 laterally suspending said lateral section in the ear canal;

18 said lateral section being dimensioned to be substantially non-occluding with minimal
19 or no contact with the walls of the ear canal when said hearing device is inserted therein for
20 allowing said hearing device to fit comfortably and operate continuously therein without daily
removal for an extended period exceeding one week.

20
1 30. (original) The single-use disposable hearing device of claim ~~29~~¹⁹, wherein said
2 coupling of the receiver section to the lateral section is a flexible connection.

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1 ~~31.~~ (original) The single-use disposable hearing device of claim ¹⁹~~29~~, wherein said
2 sealing retainer is composed of conforming material.

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1 ~~32.~~ (original) The single-use disposable hearing device of claim ¹⁹~~29~~, wherein said
2 sealing retainer has an air-gap therein.

23

1 ~~33.~~ (original) The single-use disposable hearing device of claim ¹⁹~~29~~, wherein said
2 sealing retainer further comprises medication material selected from a group including anti-
3 bacterial and anti-microbial agents.

24

4 ~~34.~~ (original) The single-use disposable hearing device of claim ¹⁹~~29~~, including an
5 assortment of different sizes and shapes of said sealing retainer, for assembly of a sealing
6 retainer of selected size and shape among said assortment with the core assembly, to
7 optimally accommodate the dimensions of an individual ear canal.

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8 ~~35.~~ (original) The single-use disposable hearing device of claim ²¹~~31~~, wherein said
9 sealing retainer comprises polyurethane foam or silicone.

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36-37 (canceled)

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1 ~~38.~~ A generic single-use disposable hearing device adapted to be positioned
2 entirely within an ear canal for continuous extended wear therein, comprising:
3 a core assembly with a lateral section of generally oval cross-section and generally
4 elongated cylindrical shape for alignment substantially along the ear canal's longitudinal axis,
5 and with a receiver section having a receiver coupled to said lateral section for medial
6 positioning in ^{an}the ear canal's bony region; said lateral section being dimensioned to avoid
7 occluding the ear canal while at least partially laterally suspended therein, with a microphone
8 and a battery assembly incorporated in said lateral section; said battery assembly being non-

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9 removable such that the device is to be discarded when the battery power is depleted, and
10 a sealing retainer concentrically positioned over said receiver section, of a
11 composition to conform to the ear canal's bony region wall to seat said hearing device and
12 acoustically seal it in the ear canal to inhibit feedback therein
13 wherein said hearing device minimally occludes the ear canal laterally, thereby
14 allowing for comfortable continuous extended wear, including during periods of sleep and
15 shower, for a period approaching depletion of said battery power without resorting to daily
16 removal of the hearing device.